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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 770135-0711

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 20, 1979

Place: Mr. Goodby's Office (EUR)

SUBJECT: Raoul Wallenberg

PARTICIPANTS: Mrs. Karena Lagergren, Swedish citizen  
Minister Bengt Borglund, Charge d'affaires, Swedish Embassy  
James E. Goodby, Deputy Assistant Secretary, EUR  
Robert L. Funseth, Director, EUR/NE  
James V. Doane, Jr., EUR/SOV

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Embassy STOCKHOLM, HA, S/MS

After exchanging pleasantries, Mrs. Lagergren mentioned she recently had met with Senators Pell and Church, Congressmen Dornan and Burton, Ed Sanders (S/ES) of the Department and Stuart Eizenstadt at the White House concerning the fate of her half-brother Raoul.

She asked about the possibility of obtaining a copy of the memorandum that former Secretary Kissinger had disapproved on raising her brother's case with the Soviets. Mr. Goodby promised to check into the request, and said he thought it would be possible.

Mrs. Lagergren referred to her request to Mr. Funseth on July 12 if we would consider raising the case with the Soviets. Mr. Goodby said we would approach the Soviet Union about her brother. Asking if it would be in Moscow or Washington, Goodby said it would be in Washington and in the absence of Ambassador Dobrynin we would take it up with the Charge. Goodby also promised to let the Swedish Embassy know when we made our approach, and asked Mr. Borglund if the Swedish Government concurred in such an endeavor. Mr. Borglund said he would ask his MFA immediately and would let us know their reply. (Within an hour, Mr. Borglund confirmed to Mr. Funseth his government's concurring in the projected approach.)

Drafted: JVD  
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Clearances:  
EUR/NE: RLF Funseth  
EUR: JTG Goodby

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Goodby then asked if Mrs. Lagergren would remain silent about our intentions until we made our approach, explaining press stories speculating on this may take some force out of it. She agreed, and said she was very pleased and grateful for our help and hoped that we would not drop the case. Goodby said it would depend on what they tell us, and hoped for the best.

In an emotional outpouring she said she had an obligation to her brother and her deceased mother and father to do everything she could. She outlined briefly the history of the case, mentioning our recent success with others and that, in her opinion, the U.S. had a moral obligation to do all it could to resolve the matter because it was the United States which had played a critical role in sending her brother on this mission. Goodby reiterated we would do all we could and the meeting concluded.

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